

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:HJANIN

APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFEE

AF/I:COL. WIRKUS

AF/E:WBCOOTE

PM:TSTERN

S/S- MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 058327

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN INTEREST IN US ARMS

REFERENCE: LUSAKA 563

1. INFO REFTEL APPRECIATED. CHONA RESPONSE, HOWEVER, DOES RAISE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS OF WHICH HE AND KAUNDA SHOULD BE FULLY AWARE.

2. REQUEST, THEREFORE, YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH CHONA IMMEDIATELY TO INFORM HIM THAT WE WISH TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ANY GRZ REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE WE MAY RECEIVE. HOWEVER, GRZ MUST ALSO BE FULLY AWARE THAT WE CANNOT RPT CANNOT PROVIDE EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES ON SHORT NOTICE ANY TIME GRZ MAY DESIRE SUCH ASSISTANCE. REASON, WHICH YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN TO CHONA, IS THAT EXTENSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE REQUIRES PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION, NOTIFICATION AND JUSTIFICATION TO CONGRESS, AND IDENTIFICATION

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OF WHAT ARMS OR SERVICES ARE BEING REQUESTED. INEVI-

TABLY, SUCH PROCESS IS TIME CONSUMING ALTHOUGH WE WOULD DO OUR BEST TO ACCELERATE IT IN CASE OF ZAMBIA.

3. THUS, IF GRZ WISHES US TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO A FUTURE ZAMBIAN REQUEST, BEST COURSE WOULD BE FOR GRZ TO MAKE INITIAL REQUEST NOW, CAST AT LEAST IN GENERAL TERMS. PLEASE REPORT PROMPTLY CHONA'S RESPONSE TO YOUR FOLLOW-UP. FYI: THE GLOBAL FY 1977 REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE HAS ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS. THUS, ANY REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR ZAMBIA WOULD BE INCLUDED IN A SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST WHICH SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. END FYI.

4. IN YOUR CONVERSATION YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT TRYING TO BE DISCOURAGING BUT TO POINT OUT THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS CONCERNED WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE. OUR MAJOR CONCERN IS TO BE HELPFUL AND RESPONSIVE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE058327
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HJANIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760091-0232
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760374/aaaacnml.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 LUSAKA 563
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUL 2004 by saccheem>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAMBIAN INTEREST IN US ARMS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, ZA, US
To: LUSAKA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006